SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE

SARL NEWS SUNDAY 25 JANUARY 2004

You are listening to Amateur Radio Station ZS6SRL of the South African Radio League, the National society for Amateur Radio in South Africa, with a news bulletin that is broadcast every Sunday at 08:15 Central Africa Time (CAT) in Afrikaans and at 08:30 CAT in English.

This bulletin is also available on the website of the SARL at www.sarl.org.za and on packet bulletin boards.

In the news today:

IARU CHAIRMAN WELCOMES SARL BACK INTO FOLD

PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE LICENSING STRUCTURE IN THE USA AFTER WRC03

MARIEPSKOP - SOTA ACTIVITY

Stay tuned for more detail on these and other news items.

Visit the SARL Web site or call the SARL office which is open on weekdays from 09:00 to 13:00 at 011 675 2393 for details on how to join, book sales and all related amateur radio activities.

SARL NEWS invites clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to amateurs on the web site of the SARL, which is www.sarl.org.za/newsinbox.asp not later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date. It would be appreciated if you could do it in both Afrikaans and English.

You are listening to ZS6SRL.

The news follows in detail.

IARU CHAIRMAN WELCOMES SARL BACK INTO FOLD

In December the South African Radio League rejoined the International Amateur Radio Union. In a letter to SARL President Graham Hartlett, the Chairman of IARU Region 1 wrote: "It gives me great pleasure in welcoming the SARL back into the folds of the IARU. The SARL was a founder member in 1925 and as the leading National Amateur Radio Society in Africa our most important link to the African Continent. It was of great concern to us when last year the SARL could not continue its membership. The Executive Committee of IARU Region 1 and I trust that some of the constraints that caused your membership having to been put on ice are something of the past and that we look forward to your support for the important tasks that IARU is carrying out on behalf of the Amateur Service. Your membership is of great importance to us."

In October the South African Amateur Radio Development Trust started the IARU fund with a R5 000 contribution. This was matched by Marpless and with

the generous support from members the full amount was raised. R11 571 was transferred to the IARU in December. The Trust is continuing its fundraising campaign to meet the 2004 obligations.

Currently the 2004 fund stands at R2 500. Radio Amateurs are requested to make their contributions to the fund so that the 2005 fees can be paid when due in April this year. The bank account is SA Amateur Radio Development Trust ABSA account number 560 142 722. The Branch code is 335-645. Please send an email to the Trust at saardt@intekom.co.za with your details so that a certificate of appreciation can be mailed to you. Details may also be faxed to 012 991 5651.

"I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the fund"' Graham Harlett said. "The SARL appreciates the efforts that the Trust is making in supporting the SARL and the generosity of the donors. Like membership of the SARL is important for Amateur Radio to prosper in South Africa, so is our organisation's membership of the International body. Please help us to raise the 2004 membership fee".

PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE LICENSING STRUCTURE IN THE USA AFTER WRC03

It is interesting to note how other countries act in respect of the authorised doing away with the Morse code requirement for access to the HF bands. The following is an extract from the latest ARRL newsletter on what is happening in the USA.

The ARRL will ask the FCC to create a new entry-level Amateur Radio license that would grant HF phone privileges without a Morse code test. The League also will propose consolidating all current licensees into three classes, retaining the Element 1 Morse requirement–now 5 WPM-only for the highest class.

ARRL First Vice President Joel Harrison said the League's proposal would provide "a true entry-level license with HF privileges" to promote growth in the Amateur Service.

A new entry-level license class–being called "Novice" for now–would require a 25-question written exam. It would offer limited HF CW/data and phone/image privileges on 80, 40, 15 and 10 meters as well as VHF and UHF privileges on 6 and 2 meters and on 222-225 and 430-450 MHz. Power output would be restricted to 100 W on 80, 40, and 15 meters and to 50 W on 10 meters and up.

The ARRL plan calls on the FCC to combine the current Advanced and Amateur Extra class licensees into Amateur Extra, because the technical level of the exams passed by these licensees is very similar. New applicants for Extra would have to pass a 5 WPM Morse code examination, and the written exam would stay the same.

The ARRL license restructuring design calls for no changes in privileges for Extra and General class licensees on 160, 60, 30, 20, 17 or 12 meters. Novice

licensees would have no access to those bands.

MARIEPSKOP - SOTA ACTIVITY

Keep your ears open for a few Secunda amateurs that intend to activate Mariepskop in a Summits On The Air event on Saturday 31 January. They will be active from about 10:00 on 7,065 MHz and 145,500 MHz. All contacts will be appreciated. In the SOTA program provision is made for the shack sloths - see http://www.qsl.net/sotasa/

NEW COMMITTEE FOR SAAWA

A new committee for the SAAWA was recently appointed.

Past-president, Cliff Smyth, ZS6BOX, who saw the transformation from the "Collins Interest Group" during the past year, to the SAAWA, recently announced the new committee, consisting of the following members:

Bushy Roode : ZS6M, formerly ZS6YQ of DXCC fame, was elected President for the year 2004. Willem Nell, ZS6ALL, will be Net Controller for the weekly meetings on 7070 kHz, at 09:00 local time every Saturday morning. Andy Cairns, ZS6ADY, volunteered for the position of QSL Manager.

Membership of the SAAWA is by association, as no membership fee is charged. All persons, interested in the preservation, use or restoration of older communications equipment are invited to join.

A QSL card is now available, QSL being via the SARL Bureau or, for non-members, via Andy Cairns, ZS6ADY, P.O.Box, 12320, Benoryn, 1504, together with a SASE.

The QSL card depicts a microphone and an old valve while an image of a morse key underlines the historical philosophy of the "Association".

All amateurs are invited to join the SAAWA meetings on Saturday mornings, when interesting discussions are held, followed by a short "Swop Shop", for items of antique interest. Stations operating on Amplitude Modulation or CW are welcome to call in for signal reports.

ACTIVITIES IN WHICH TO PARTICIPATE

You have still time till Tuesday the 27th to contact the Dxpedition to Swaziland by amateurs from Div 5 and 6; You also still have time to participate in the PEARS VHF/UHF contest which ends at 18:00 tonight; Saturday 31 January - Contact the amateurs on Mariepskop with their SOTA activity; 14 February - Kids Day.

The SARL invites you to listen to Amateur Radio Mirror International on 17 815, 9 750, and 7 082 kHz and 145,625 MHz in East London, 145,650 in Durban 145,750 MHz in Pretoria and 438,800 in the Sandton area. A repeat broadcast can be heard on Mondays at 21:00 CAT on 3 215 kHz.

Telkom and Sentech sponsor ARMI.

This then brings us to the end of today's bulletin, which was compiled by Martin, ZS6ABU, and read by …….from…… as a service to radio amateurs, short wave listeners and electronic enthusiasts.

You have been listening to ZS6SRL and thank you for having joined us. Also many thanks to those persons who supply news for our bulletins and the amateurs who relay the bulletins so regularly.

Goodbye everyone.

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========== Message Ends ==========
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